Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, The Vietnam War was fought in Vietnam from 1961 to 1975 and involved North Vietnam and Viet Cong in conflict with the United States and South Vietnam; and,

Whereas, In 1965, there were 80,000 United States troops in Vietnam and by 1969 a peak of approximately 543,000 troops was reached; and,

Whereas, On January 27, 1973, the Treaty of Paris was signed, which required the release of all United States prisoners of war held in North Vietnam and the withdrawal of all United States Armed Forces from South Vietnam; and,

Whereas, On March 30, 1973, the United States Armed Forces completed the withdrawal of combat troops from Vietnam, and more than 58,000 members of the United States Armed Forces lost their lives in Vietnam and more than 300,000 were wounded; and,

Whereas, In 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated in the District of Columbia to commemorate those members of the United States Armed Forces who died or were declared missing in action in Vietnam; and,

Whereas, In 2006, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated at the South Dakota State Capitol to commemorate the South Dakota soldiers who died or were declared missing in action in Vietnam; and,

Whereas, More than 27,000 South Dakotans served valiantly under difficult circumstances during the Vietnam War and 210 made the ultimate sacrifice; and,

Whereas, Since their return, these veterans have contributed tremendously to their communities, states, and nation in an effort to advance the American ideals and aims for which they fought; and,

Whereas, The Vietnam War is a story of service members of different backgrounds, races, and creeds who came together to complete a daunting mission. It is a story of Americans from every corner of our Nation who left the warmth of family to serve the country they loved. It is a story of patriots who braved the line of fire, who cast themselves into harm's way to save a friend, who fought hour after hour, day after day to preserve the liberties we hold dear; and,

Whereas, By South Dakota statute, March 30 has been designated as Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day, a day to pay tribute to the fallen, the missing, the wounded, the millions who served, and the millions more who awaited their return:

Now, Therefore, I, Dennis Daugaard, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim March 30, 2016, as

WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS DAY

in South Dakota.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Seventh Day of March in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Sixteen.

Dennis Daugaard

Dennis Daugaard, Governor

Attest:

Shantel Krebs

Shantel Krebs, Secretary of State